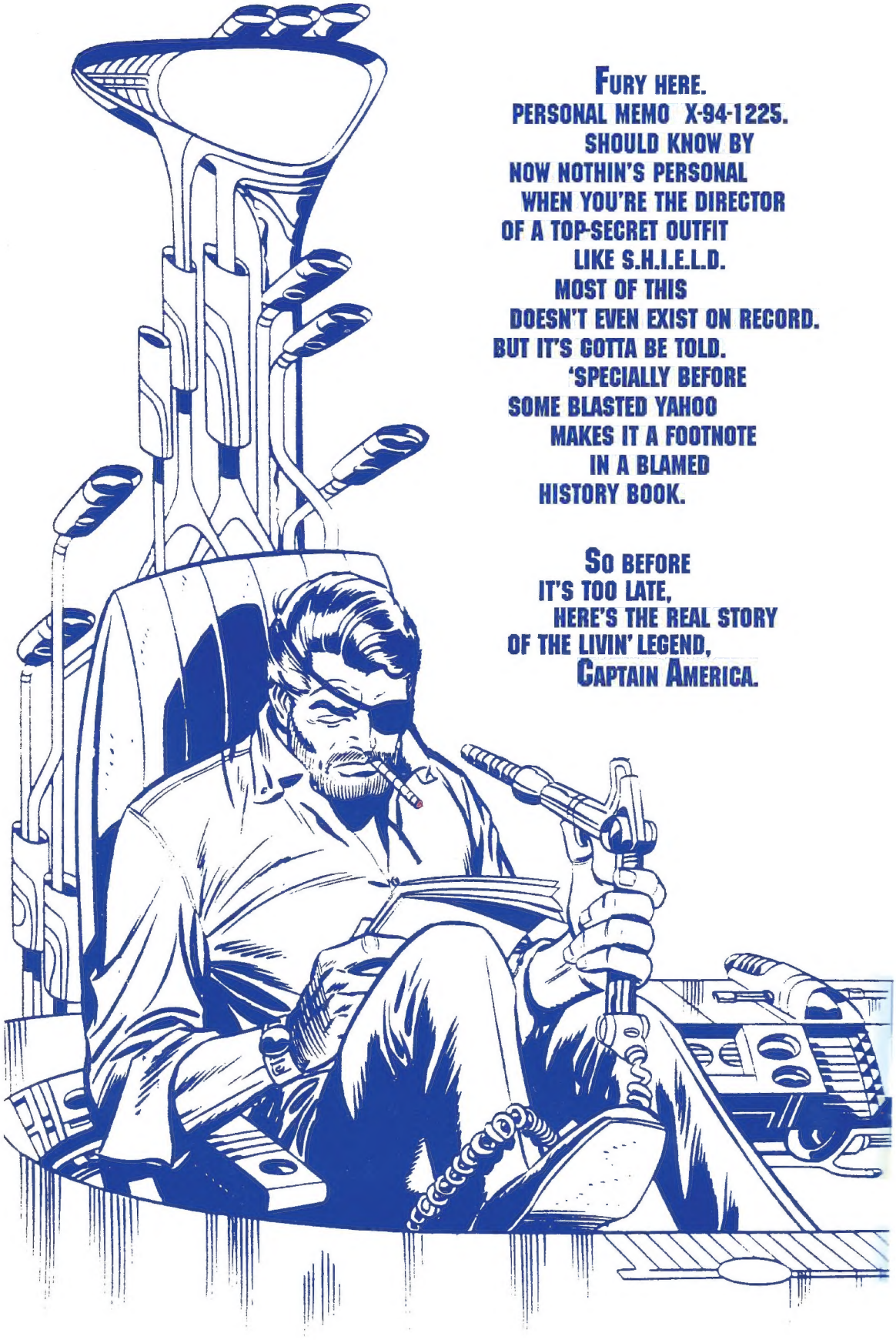
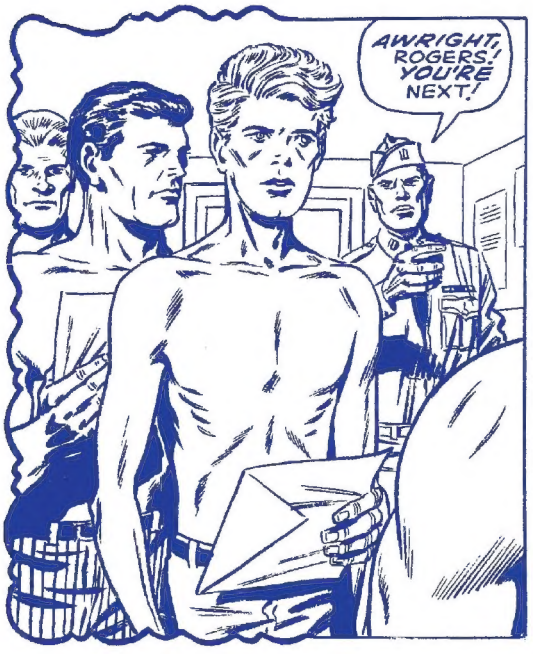
# CAPTAIN AMERICA

ASHCAN EDITION - SEVENTY FIVE CENTS


FURY HERE.
PERSONAL MEMO X-94-1225.
SHOULD KNOW BY
NOW NOTHIN'S PERSONAL
WHEN YOU'RE THE DIRECTOR
OF A TOP-SECRET OUTFIT
LIKE S.H.I.E.L.D.
MOST OF THIS
DOESN'T EVEN EXIST ON RECORD.
BUT IT'S GOTTA BE TOLD.
'SPECIALLY BEFORE
SOME BLASTED YAHOO
MAKES IT A FOOTNOTE
IN A BLAMED
HISTORY BOOK.
SO BEFORE
IT'S TOO LATE,
HERE'S THE REAL STORY
OF THE LIVIN' LEGEND,
CAPTAIN AMERICA.

CAP WAS ONCE JUST A BEANPOLE NAME'A STEVE ROGERS. YOU KNOW, THE TYPE YA'D GET CHEWED OUT FER PICKIN' ON. ANYHOW, ROGERS COULDN'T BE DRAFTED. COULDN'T EVEN ENLIST IN THE WAR ON ACCOUNT OF HIS BAD FEET AN 'ALL. BUT INSIDE, HE WAS TRUE RED, WHITE AN' BLUE.

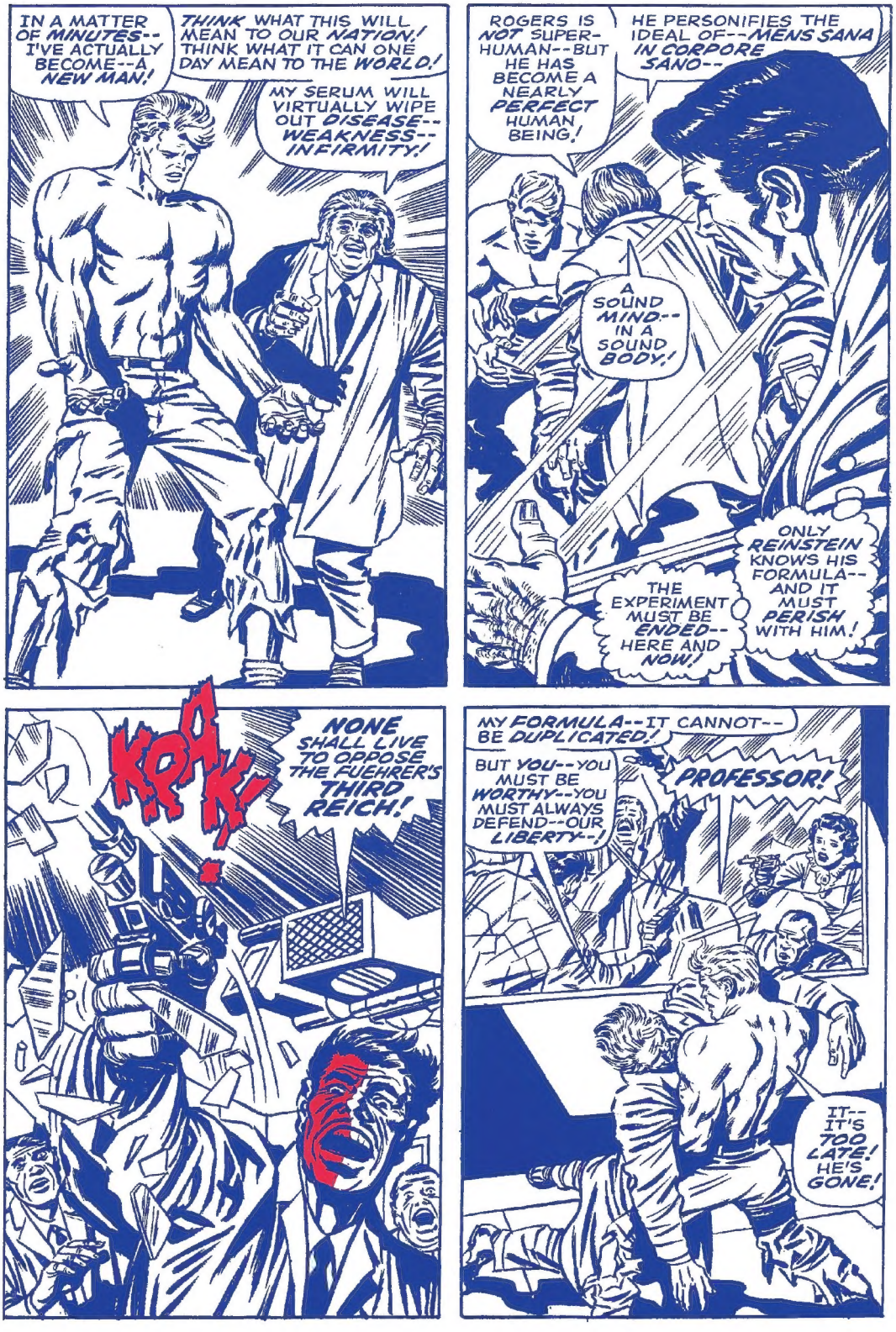


I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, SON.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE BEEN CLASSIFIED 1-A??
NO, SIR! THEY WOULDN'T DRAFT ME! THAT'S WHY I'M VOLUNTEERING!
WHEN I READ WHAT THE ENEMY IS DOING-- OVER IN EUROPE-- AND WHAT THEY MIGHT DO HERE--

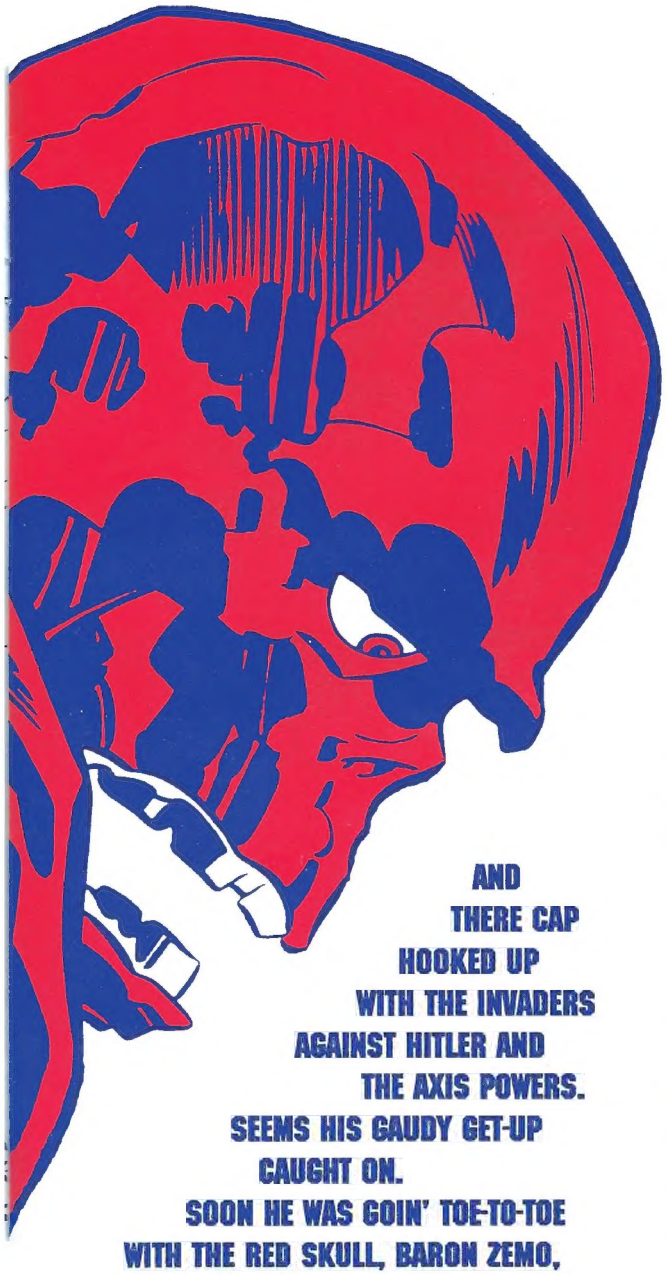
I'M AFRAID THAT'S ALL YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO, MY BOY-- JUST READ ABOUT IT!
I HATE WAR--AND SENSELESS BLOODSHED--BUT I CAN'T STAY BEHIND--WHILE OTHERS DO THE FIGHTING!
YOU'RE MUCH TOO FRAIL FOR MILITARY DUTY!
YOU'VE JUST GOT TO ACCEPT ME!
SORRY, SON! FOR YOUR OWN GOOD-- MY DECISION STANDS!
BUT, THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN DO-- SOME PLACE FOR ME!

TA ROGERS, THIS HERE COUNTRY WASN'T SO MUCH ABOUT BEIN', BUT ABOUT BECOMIN'. AN' IN HIS SEARCH TO BECOME ALL HE WANTED TA FOR HIS COUNTRY, HE CROSSED PATHS WITH PROFESSOR ABRAHAM REINSTEIN. HE'D JUST PERFECTED THE TOP-SECRET SUPER SOLDIER FORMULA. A FORMULA THAT WOULD BE TESTED ON ROGERS...

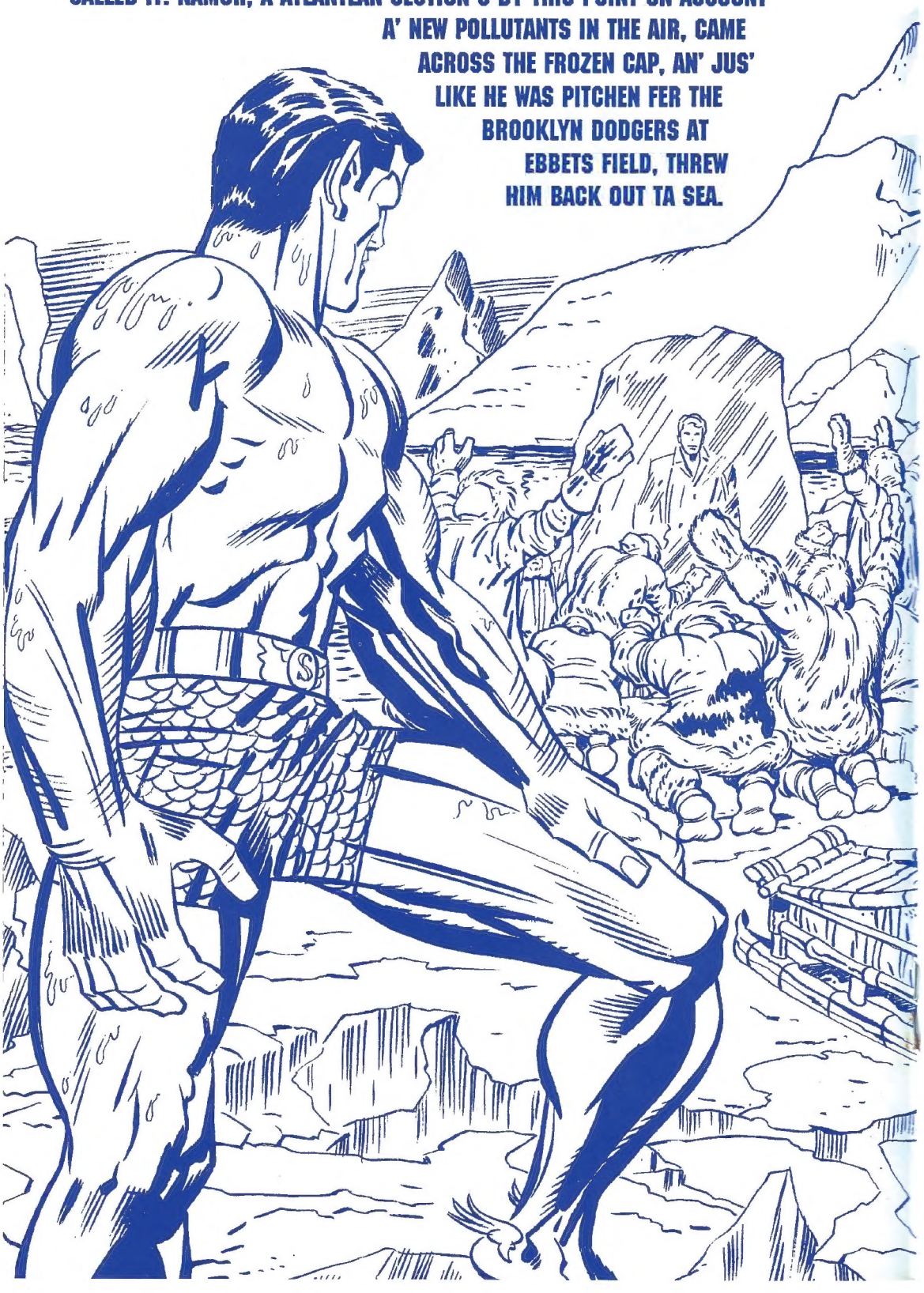
OBSERVE! I AM ABOUT TO BOMBARD HIS BODY WITH POTENT, INVISIBLE VITA-RAYS!
AND, ONCE THE PROCESS IS COMPLETED--
THE FRAIL YOUNG MAN WHO STOOD BEFORE YOU--
WILL BE FRAIL AND SICKLY NO LONGER!
INSTEAD, HIS EVERY BLOOD CELL WILL SURGE WITH NEW POWER, NEW VIGOR, NEW VITALITY!
--UNTIL, HE STANDS BEFORE YOU-- THE FIRST OF AN ARMY TO COME--
AN ARMY OF THE MOST PERFECT PHYSICAL SPECIMENS ON EARTH!
IT'S OVER! AND--I'M STILL ALIVE!
PROJECT SUPER-SOLDIER IS A SUCCESS! I KNOW IT! I CAN FEEL IT!


IN A MATTER OF MINUTES--I'VE ACTUALLY BECOME--A NEW MAN!
THINK WHAT THIS WILL MEAN TO OUR NATION! THINK WHAT IT CAN ONE DAY MEAN TO THE WORLD!
MY SERUM WILL VIRTUALLY WIPE OUT DISEASE--WEAKNESS--INFIRMITY!
ROGERS IS NOT SUPER-HUMAN--BUT HE HAS BECOME A NEARLY PERFECT HUMAN BEING!
HE PERSONIFIES THE IDEAL OF--MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO--
A SOUND MIND--IN A SOUND BODY!
THE EXPERIMENT MUST BE ENDED--HERE AND NOW!
ONLY REINSTEIN KNOWS HIS FORMULA--AND IT MUST PERISH WITH HIM!
KRAK!
NONE SHALL LIVE TO OPPOSE THE FUEHRER'S THIRD REICH!
MY FORMULA--IT CANNOT--BE DUPLICATED!
BUT YOU--YOU MUST BE WORTHY--YOU MUST ALWAYS DEFEND--OUR LIBERTY--!
PROFESSOR!
IT--IT'S TOO LATE! HE'S GONE!

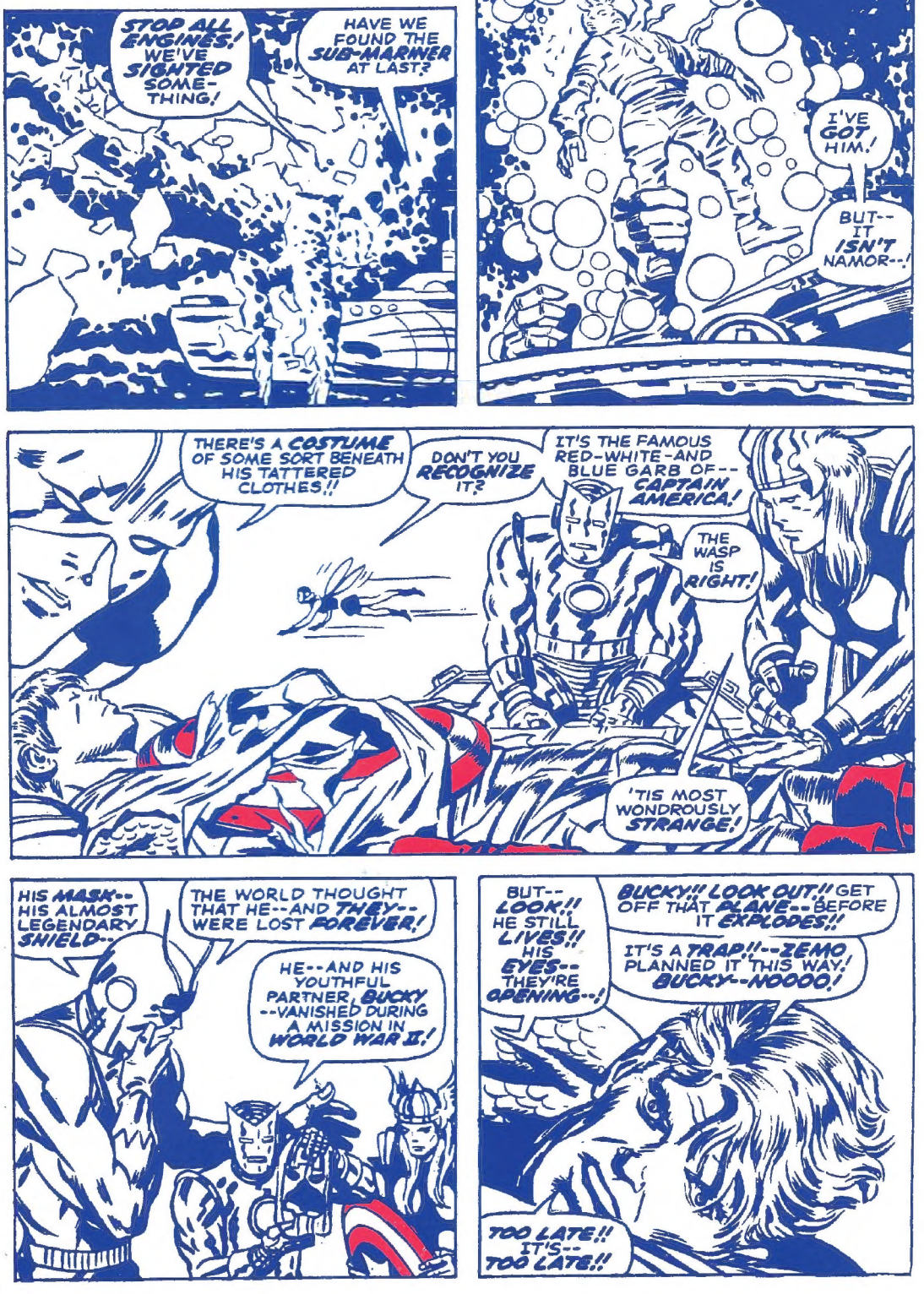
SO STEVE ROGERS BECAME CAPTAIN AMERICA.
THE PRESS WAS QUICK TA PULL OUT THEIR PULITZER-WANNA-BE'S AND HAIL 'IM THE SENTINEL OF LIBERTY. THEY THREW 'IM IN THE HEART OF A WAR HE'D ALWAYS HAD THE HEART TO FIGHT. IT WAS THERE WE FIRST MET, BACK WHEN I WAS COMMANDIN' THE HOWLERS.



AND
THERE CAP
HOOKED UP
WITH THE INVADERS
AGAINST HITLER AND
THE AXIS POWERS.
SEEMS HIS GAUDY GET-UP
CAUGHT ON.
SOON HE WAS GOIN' TOE-TO-TOE
WITH THE RED SKULL, BARON ZEMO,
AN' A HOST OF OTHER
SUPER-POWERED GOOSE-STEPPERS.
ONE FACT 'A LIFE IS THAT IN WAR,
PEOPLE DIE. ONE OF 'EM WAS
CAP'S LONG-TIME PARTNER,
BUCKY BARNES.


SEEMS THE EXPLOSION THAT KILLED BARNES ALSO PUT CAP INTA SOME SORTA SUSPENDED ANIMATION. LEAST THAT'S WHAT THE BRAINS AT HQ CALLED IT. NAMOR, A ATLANTEAN SECTION 8 BY THIS POINT ON ACCOUNT A' NEW POLLUTANTS IN THE AIR, CAME ACROSS THE FROZEN CAP, AN' JUS' LIKE HE WAS PITCHEN FER THE BROOKLYN DODGERS AT EBBETS FIELD, THREW HIM BACK OUT TA SEA.

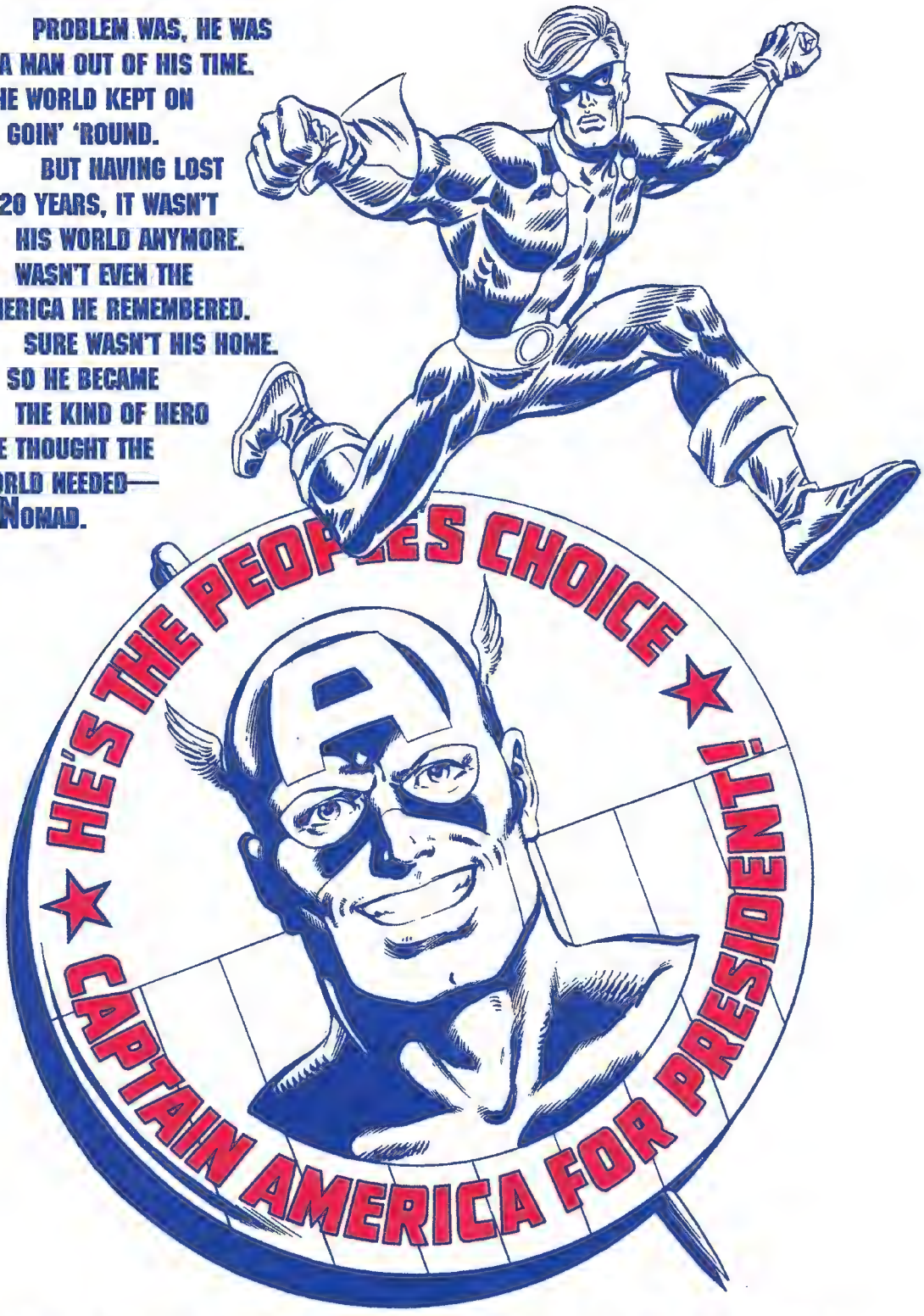
**CAP'S BODY WAS FOUND BY THE AVENGERS.**


STOP ALL ENGINES! WE'VE SIGHTED SOME-THING!
HAVE WE FOUND THE SUB-MARINER AT LAST?
I'VE GOT HIM.!
BUT-- IT ISN'T NAMOR--!
THERE'S A COSTUME OF SOME SORT BENEATH HIS TATTERED CLOTHES!!
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE IT?
IT'S THE FAMOUS RED-WHITE-AND BLUE GARB OF-- CAPTAIN AMERICA!
THE WASP IS RIGHT!
'TIS MOST WONDROUSLY STRANGE!
HIS MASK-- HIS ALMOST LEGENDARY SHIELD--
THE WORLD THOUGHT THAT HE--AND THEY-- WERE LOST FOREVER!
HE--AND HIS YOUTHFUL PARTNER, BUCKY --VANISHED DURING A MISSION IN WORLD WAR II!
BUT-- LOOK!! HE STILL LIVES!! HIS EYES-- THEY'RE OPENING--!
BUCKY!! LOOK OUT!! GET OFF THAT PLANE-- BEFORE IT EXPLODES!!
IT'S A TRAP!!--ZEMO PLANNED IT THIS WAY! BUCKY--NOOOO!
TOO LATE!! IT'S-- TOO LATE!!

AN' WOULDN'T'CHA KNOW, THE RED SKULL, ZEMO AN' ALL THE REST SHOWED UP, TOO.
PLUS, WE WERE ALL UP IN ARMS OVER A NEW GROUP OF FASCISTS CALLED HYDRA. THE AVENGERS WEREN'T HIS ONLY ALLIES AGAINST THESE YAHOOS.

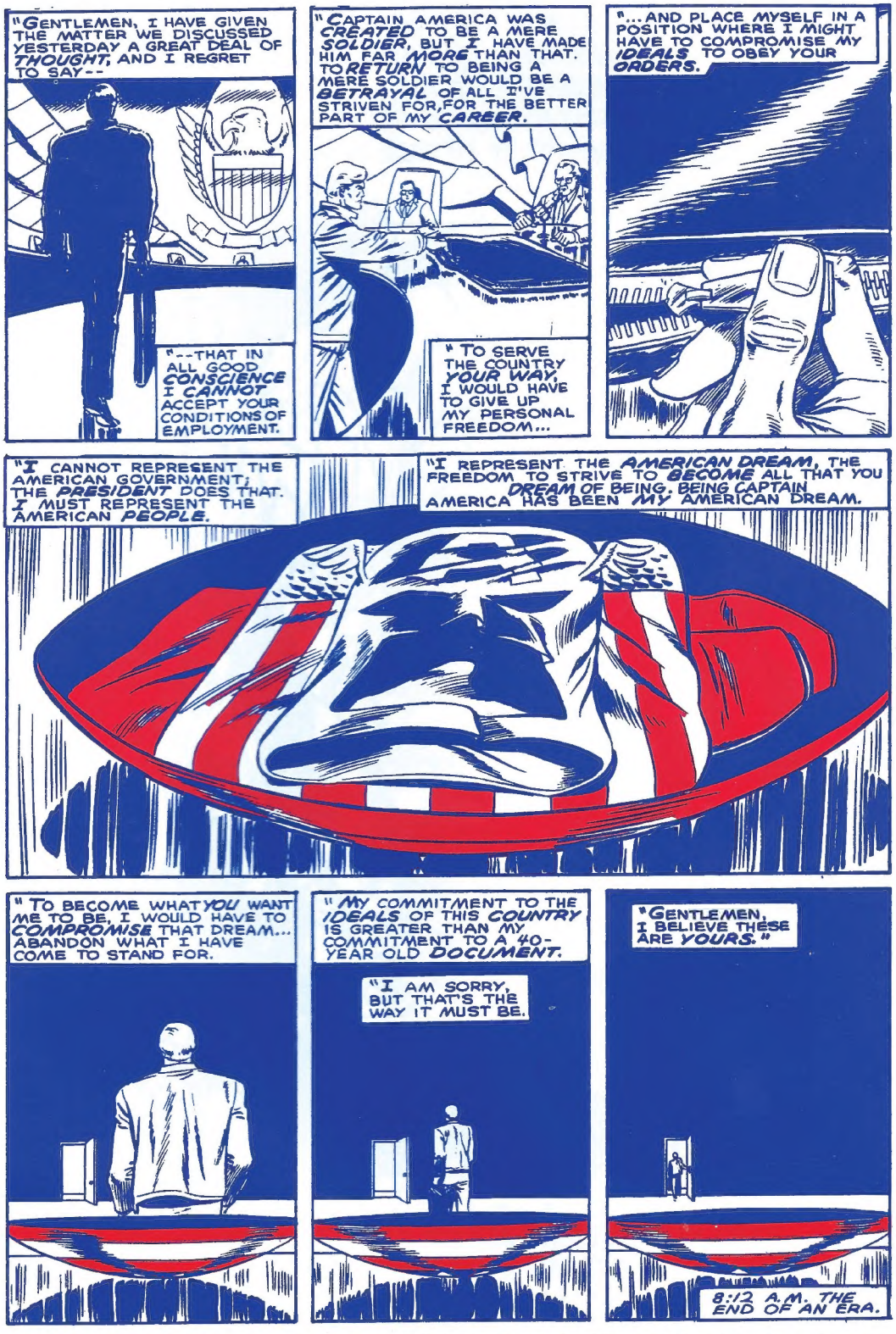
THE FALCON, BLACK PANTHER, AGENT 13, AND EVEN RICK JONES PLAYIN' A POOR MAN'S BUCKY SHOWED UP TO HELP CAP FIND HIS WAY IN THIS NEW ERA.

PROBLEM WAS, HE WAS A MAN OUT OF HIS TIME. THE WORLD KEPT ON GOIN' 'ROUND. BUT HAVING LOST 20 YEARS, IT WASN'T HIS WORLD ANYMORE. WASN'T EVEN THE AMERICA HE REMEMBERED. SURE WASN'T HIS HOME. SO HE BECAME THE KIND OF HERO HE THOUGHT THE WORLD NEEDED— NOMAD.




EVEN THAT WAS SHORT-LIVED. AS WAS HIS MAIN SQUEEZE, SHARON CARTER—AGENT 13. SHE DIED AFTER BEIN' BRAINWASHED BY SOME NEO-NAZIS BOZOS. AND CAP WAS REMINDED AGAIN THAT WE'RE ALL PRISONERS A' ONE KIND OF WAR OR ANOTHER. NOT JUST OF BLOOD AND SWEAT. BUT OF BELIEFS AND IDEOLOGIES. COMPELLED BY HIS NEED TO EMBODY THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA, HE EVEN CONSIDERED RUNNIN' FOR POLITICAL OFFICE.

**HE REALIZED TOO LATE THAT DREAMS CAN'T BE FOUGHT FOR IF THEY'RE NOT YER OWN, AND WAS FORCED TO GIVE UP THE MANTLE OF CAPTAIN AMERICA.**


"GENTLEMEN, I HAVE GIVEN THE MATTER WE DISCUSSED YESTERDAY A GREAT DEAL OF *THOUGHT*, AND I REGRET TO SAY--
"--THAT IN ALL GOOD *CONSCIENCE* I *CANNOT* ACCEPT YOUR CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.
"*CAPTAIN AMERICA* WAS *CREATED* TO BE A MERE *SOLDIER*, BUT *I* HAVE MADE HIM FAR *MORE* THAN THAT. TO *RETURN* TO BEING A MERE SOLDIER WOULD BE A *BETRAYAL* OF ALL I'VE STRIVEN FOR, FOR THE BETTER PART OF MY *CAREER*.
" TO SERVE THE COUNTRY *YOUR WAY*, I WOULD HAVE TO GIVE UP MY PERSONAL FREEDOM...
"...AND PLACE MYSELF IN A POSITION WHERE I MIGHT HAVE TO COMPROMISE MY *IDEALS* TO OBEY YOUR *ORDERS*.
"*I* CANNOT REPRESENT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT; THE *PRESIDENT* DOES THAT. *I* MUST REPRESENT THE AMERICAN *PEOPLE*.
"I REPRESENT THE *AMERICAN DREAM*, THE FREEDOM TO STRIVE TO *BECOME* ALL THAT YOU *DREAM* OF BEING. BEING CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS BEEN *MY* AMERICAN DREAM.
" TO BECOME WHAT *YOU* WANT ME TO BE, I WOULD HAVE TO *COMPROMISE* THAT DREAM... ABANDON WHAT I HAVE COME TO STAND FOR.
" *MY* COMMITMENT TO THE *IDEALS* OF THIS *COUNTRY* IS GREATER THAN MY COMMITMENT TO A 40-YEAR OLD *DOCUMENT*.
"I AM SORRY, BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT MUST BE.
"GENTLEMEN, I BELIEVE THESE ARE *YOURS*."
8:12 A.M. THE END OF AN ERA.

**HE GOT IT BACK, BUT ONLY BY BECOMIN' THE CAPTAIN, PROVIN' TO THE WORLD THAT THE IDEALS OF AMERICA WERE GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ANY ONE GOVERNMENT BODY.**

AND THEN THE BUBBLE BURST. CAP STARTED TA LOSE IT. HE WUZ GETTIN' TIRED AN' WORN DOWN. HAD NO ENERGY ANYMORE. A DOCTOR TOLD HIM HE WAS DYING. TURNED OUT TA BE THE DEGRADATION OF THE SUPER SOLDIER FORMULA THAT STILL COURSED THROUGH HIS BLOOD. AN' AFTER ALMOST 60 YEARS OF SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY, HE'S JUST SUPPOSED TO SIT BACK AN' DIE. JUST LIKE THAT.

I LIKE TO THINK THERE'S AT LEAST A FIGHTIN' CHANCE FOR CAP. THAT'S ALL HE EVER HAD, ANYHOW. ONE THING IS FER CERTAIN...WHATEVER HIS FUTURE HOLDS, IT'LL BE WRITTEN ON THE STARS AND STRIPES OF THE COUNTRY HE LOVES.

WE'LL MISS YA, CAP. FURY OUT.

KAMIC RIDER
MARIKA